

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



## COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

### Division of Environmental Health Services:

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### Drowning Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility

Memorial Day marks the reopening of hundreds of public swimming pools and spas county-wide for the summer season. San Bernardino County health inspectors will begin their seasonal pool and spa inspections in order to protect the community's health and safety. Inspectors will focus on violations that impact the people who use public pools and spas. Pool gate closures are one of a few critical violations that are noted during an inspection to minimize and prevent childhood drowning. Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for children between the ages of 1 and 4 in California. It is for this reason that San Bernardino County, Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services wants to make everyone aware that saving children from drowning is *everyone's* responsibility. State law mandates that all public pool gates operate properly, close on their own, open outward, and latch securely so children cannot follow without your knowledge, get into pool areas and drown. Fencing for public pools should be at least 5 feet high, with bars/openings not more than 4 inches apart, and not climbable. We want to remind all those who use a pool to double check that the gate latches behind them, and if it doesn't, report it to the apartment manager, the homeowner's association board, or a responsible party so that it is repaired immediately.

There are many websites available to obtain additional information about proper fencing and keeping kids safe. For more information visit San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/dehs/rechealth/rechealthbusiness.htm>, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/chdrown.html>.

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